

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

1.2.1 Robert C. Slimmon (1848 - 1915) & Annie Cornish (1852 - 1931)



Robert Slimmon (1848) and Annie Cornish (1852)
(Photos courtesy of Thomas C. Slimmon)

Robert C. (Centre-Side-Road Bob) Slimmon was born in Whitby, Ontario on 10 Apr 1848. (Many people did not have middle names in the late 1800s. There were 4 Roberts in the area, so this Robert was given the middle initial 'C' as he lived on the Centre-Side-Road in Peel.) In 1871, he was at home farming with his father.

On 27 Jun 1877, he married 25 year old Arena M.A. "Annie" Cornish who had been born in England to Thomas Cornish and Sarah Parrick. Gladys and Florence (Robert's nieces) remembered Annie as a very good looking woman who loved to dance and party; a real "high stepper". This was quite different from Robert who was a quiet man with a black beard and black hair.

ROBERT SLIMMON (~ 1790)
- **JOHN SLIMMON (1818)**
- **ROBERT C. SLIMMON (1848)**

SECTION 1.2.1
PAGE 1

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

Robert bought his farm on the Centre Side Road from his father after he married Annie. This was the east half (100 acres) of concession 6, lot 9. By the time of the 1881 census, Robert was farming near his father and he and Annie had three sons: John Bigby born 20 Nov 1878, Thomas Watson born 15 Jun 1881, and George Edward born 27 Jun 1883. In 1883, an area directory indicates that he was still farming 100 acres on concession 6, lot 9 in Wellington County, Peel Township.

At the time of the 1901 census, his sons Thomas and George were still at home and 56 year old Rebecca May, who had been born in Ireland, was his house keeper. His wife Annie does not appear in that census. However, she does appear in the 1916 census of Manitoba, living with her sons Thomas and George in Twp. 9 Range 7 W2 in the provisional district of Assiniboia in southern SK.

In 1904 Annie left Robert and moved to Hartney, Manitoba with her 3 sons, John's wife Mary, and John and Mary's infant son John. Annie took her large upright piano with her on the train to Hartney. After her passing, the piano was in the home of her grandson James Robert Slimmon for many years.

Robert sold his farm to his cousin Alex Watson when his wife left him. Robert was a hired hand at various farms in Peel Township. He also had a stud horse and he travelled throughout the area with his horse.

Robert was very popular with his nieces; Gladys, Agnes, and Florence remembered him well. He used to carry hard candies in his pockets for "his girls". Agnes remembered being offered some of these candies in a huge hand with a lot of chaff mixed in. This look quite unappetizing, so she said, "Not this time, I'm not hungry." Her mother later told Agnes that she had hurt her Uncle Robert's feelings. She did not want to do this so the next time she took the candies, chaff and all. Robert was sometimes call "toes" as he was "toed in".

Robert sent money out west to help his family which he so dearly loved but who were so far away. He thought about moving west many times; one day he even got as far as the train station, but he changed his mind before the train came.

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

According to the 1906 Historical Atlas, Robert was retired and living in Glenallen, ON that year. On 7 Oct 1915 Robert got a letter from his wife Annie. That night, he had supper at his brother William's house and after supper, instead of the usual bible reading, Robert gave a particularly high powered sermon. William, his wife Esther, and Robert were invited out for the evening at the men's brother's John and his wife Sarah's home. Robert declined to go. When William and Esther returned, William took the horses to the barn where he saw that Robert had committed suicide by hanging. The letter from Annie was never found. Annie remarried in Saskatchewan, the date of this marriage was not found, but one can surmise that the dreadful letter informed Robert of this marriage. Or, at the very least, that Annie was going to get married. His son John was the only son who went back east for the funeral.

Robert died on 7 Oct 1915 at the age of 67. He is buried at Hollen Cemetery, ON with his mother and father. The inscription says that he died in 1914. However, his death notice says 1915 and his nieces mentioned above remember it was 1915. Death notices should be more accurate than inscriptions on tombstones as the death notice is made up right after the death. Inscriptions on the tombstones may not be put on for a number of years.

A Urania Margaret Anne Cornish, born to Thomas and Sarah Cornish was baptised in Clapton Common, St. Thomas in Hackney—a suburb of London—on February 29, 1852. Although the unusual first name is spelled differently than in Robert and Annie's marriage record, there are enough other similarities to indicate this was 'our' Annie Cornish. The 1861 and 1871 censuses of England indicate that Annie's father was a mason and bricklayer.

Annie Slimmon remarried in Saskatchewan to Bill McKay who was a homesteader in the Stoughton area. She became known as Margaret McKay. She passed away in Stoughton in 1931 and is buried in the Stoughton cemetery.

ROBERT SLIMMON (~ 1790)
 - **JOHN SLIMMON (1818)**
 - **ROBERT C. SLIMMON (1848)**

SECTION 1.2.1
PAGE 3

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY**Children of Robert C. Slimmon & Annie Cornish:****1.2.1.1 John Bigby Slimmon**

- Born 20 Nov 1878 in Peel, ON
- Died 1 May 1967 in Stoughton, SK, at age 88

1.2.1.2 Thomas Watson Slimmon

- Born 15 Jun 1881 in Drayton, ON
- Died on 6 Nov 1972 in Stoughton, SK, at age 91

1.2.1.3 George Edward Slimmon

- Born 27 Jun 1883 in Peel, ON
- Died 18 Apr 1981 in Swan River, MB, at age 97